USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry | R9–PR–011–23 | October 2023

Pest Alert

Asian Longhorned Beetle
(Anoplophora glabripennis):

The **Asian longhorned beetle (ALB)** was discovered attacking trees in the United States in 1996. Beetle larvae create tunnels that girdle tree stems and branches. Repeated attacks lead to tree crown dieback and death of the tree. ALB traveled to the United States inside solid wood packing material from Asia and has been intercepted at ports and warehouses throughout the country.

This beetle is a serious pest in China, where it kills hardwood trees in roadside plantings, shelterbelts, and plantations. In the United States, ALB prefer **maple species** (*Acer spp.*), including **red, sugar, silver, boxelder**, and **Norway maples**. Other preferred hosts are **birches, elms, golden raintree, horse chestnuts (buckeyes), katsura, London planetree, mimosa, mountain ash, poplars** (including **cottonwood**), and **willows**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture maintains a list of ALB host trees in the United States.

Control

Currently, the only effective means of eradicating ALB is removing and destroying infested trees. To prevent further spread of the insect, quarantines are established to restrict transporting regulated material, such as trees, branches, and firewood, from the area. Current quarantines, or regulated areas, in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina can be found at AsianLonghornedBeetle.com under the "Quarantines" tab. Early detection and rapid response are crucial to successfully eliminating the beetle.

An adult Asian longhorned beetle. USDA photo by Kenneth R. Law.

Biology

ALB have one generation every 1–2 years depending upon climatic zone. In colder climates adult beetles are usually present from June to October, but in warmer climates can be found earlier in the spring and later in the fall. Adults emerge from and typically stay on one tree, or they may disperse a short distance to feed and reproduce on a new host. In forests adults may disperse farther, faster. Each adult female lays 35–90 eggs during her lifetime. In 10–15 days the eggs hatch, and for variable lengths of time the larvae feed in the living tissue under the tree bark, after which they will bore deep into the wood to pupate. The adults emerge from their pupation site by boring a tunnel through the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree.

If you suspect an Asian longhorned beetle infestation, please collect an adult beetle in a jar, place the jar in a freezer, and immediately notify any of these State or Federal officials/offices:

State Department of Agriculture:
- State Plant Regulatory Official
- State Entomologist

State Forester

State Department of Natural Resources County Cooperative Extension Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture:
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
- Forest Service

Call the ALB HOTLINE at 866–702–9938 toll free.

Report ALB online.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

1. Adult beetles. The adults have a jet-black body, ¾ to 1½ inches long, with mottled-white spots on the back. The long antennae are 1½ to 2½ times the body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment. The feet may have a bluish tinge. Courtesy photo, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

2. Oval to round pits in the bark. The female beetle chews out these egg- laying sites (or "niches") and deposits a single egg at each site. USDA Forest Service photo by Dennis Haugen.

3. Oozing sap. When the insect grows, sap may flow out of egg sites, especially on maple trees, as the larvae feed inside the tree. The sap often appears as dark fluid dripping down the tree and may attract other insects like bees and wasps. USDA Forest Service photo by Dennis Haugen.

4. Frass or sawdust-like material. As the beetle larvae tunnel into the tree, frass falls to the base of the infested tree, or frass can collect on a branch where it meets the main stem or another branch. USDA Forest Service photo by Robert A. Haack.

5. Round exit holes. Adult beetles create holes in the trunk or branches, roughly ⅜ inch in diameter, as they emerge from the tree. Egg laying sites are also visible in the right photo. USDA photo (left) by R. Anson Eaglin. USDA Forest Service photo (right) by Dennis Haugen.

For more information, contact:

USDA APHIS - Contact Us

APHIS Customer Service Center: 1–844–820–2234

USDA Forest Service; Eastern Region; State, Private, and Tribal Forestry; Forest Health Protection – Contact Us, using *Subject: SPTF Forest Health Protection Program – ALB*

For more information about Asian longhorned beetle in the United States, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture website: AsianLonghornedBeetle.com.

Eastern Region
State, Private, and Tribal Forestry
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